

That's HOT

In a litany of looks, one always stands out.
Hollywood and fashion stars share the time they felt “fire”

by JENNIFER FERRISE *and* SAMANTHA SIMON



**Emily
Ratajkowski**

I love living in New York City, because you can hit the streets and immediately show off your look. When I get dressed in the morning, I get to decide who I want to be that day. Sometimes that means wearing an oversize suit and sneakers; other times it's a dress and heels. That's when I appreciate fashion the most—when it helps me feel like my best self.



Gabrielle Union

The hottest I've looked in a while was at my seventh-anniversary party this year in Paris. Yellow is my favorite color, so I chose this Cong Tri minidress. I wanted my look to pop and also feel like a celebration of our love. I was obsessed with how short and corseted it was—it gave me the snatch of life! It was the end of an amazing night of surprises that my husband [Dwyane Wade] planned for me, and I felt as amazing as the experience.



Gillian Anderson

The 2017 Golden Globes was one of those rare events when the dress, clutch, shoes, hair, makeup, and confidence all came together. This white tulle Jenny Packham gown with a full skirt and crystal-encrusted neck was Old Hollywood glamour, yet still comfortable, effortless chic. I wish that was always the case! I felt like a million bucks.



Yara Shahidi

I don't think about being hot in typical terms; it's about feeling most like myself. The first look that comes to mind is a tweed Helmut Lang suit I wore in 2018. I celebrate most big moments in a suit—it's what I feel most powerful wearing. Having such a beautifully fitted one that also complemented other things I love about myself, like my curls, created this beautiful amalgam of exactly who I am.



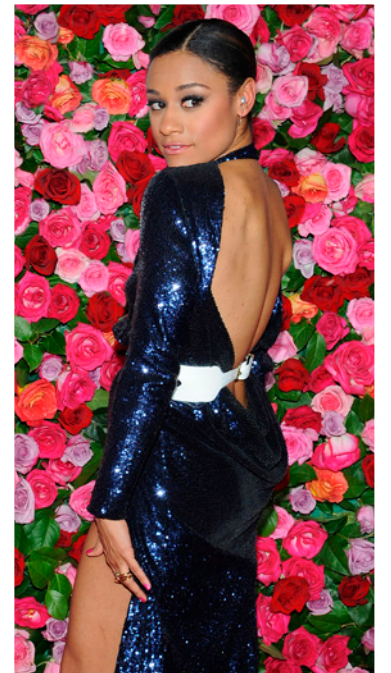
Laverne Cox

When I closed the II Honoré show at New York Fashion Week in 2019, so much of who I am came together. As a Robyn song played, I walked down the runway and created so many amazing shapes with this Zac Posen dress. The response from the crowd was incredible. It was also one of the first completely plus-size shows at NYFW, and I was so inspired by the powerful women around me. It was a perfect storm where art met fashion met purpose.



Sydney Sweeney

I've always imagined Venice as this picturesque storybook place, so for my first time there this year, I wanted a dress that captured that feeling. This beautiful custom Dolce & Gabbana gown was a dream. It had this sheer mystery to it; if the wind hit just right, it would pick up the train and show off the sexy slit. I felt like a glamorous Italian princess.



Ariana DeBose

Honestly, I very rarely feel hot. But I nailed it at the 2018 Tony Awards. It was one of my first red carpets, and Prabal Gurung graciously styled me. We wanted to celebrate the show I was nominated for, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, and this gown checked all the boxes. Beautiful color. Sparkle. Party in the back. I didn't take home the trophy, but since I felt 100 percent confident, I had already won.

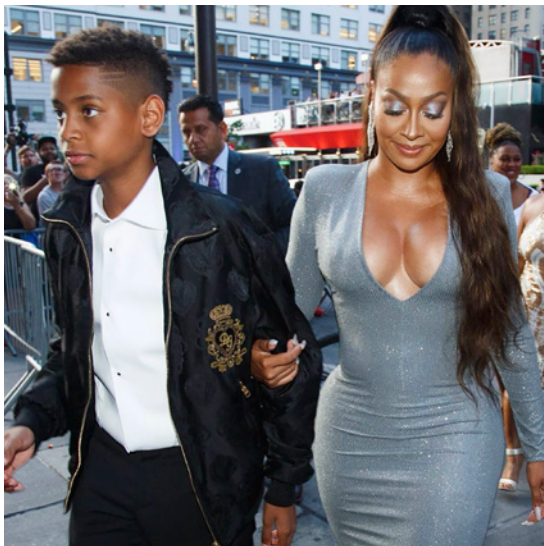
Heidi Klum

I've worn some incredible looks, but the one that made me feel my best was the Valentino couture gown that I wore when I married Tom [Kaulitz, in 2019]. The moment I put it on, it was like the romance I was feeling inside was showcased on the outside. I loved the off-the-shoulder silhouette, the voluminous sleeves, and the intricate embroidery that Pierpaolo [Piccioli] created. I decided not to get ready with hair or makeup artists that day because I just wanted to look like me, in the most beautiful gown, marrying my Tom.



Kristin Chenoweth

My mom always said, "If you feel pretty, you sing pretty," and I certainly felt beautiful in this beaded Balmain romper. It's comfortable, it's sexy, and both men and women love it, if you know what I mean. I can also easily sing in it for concerts. When you're jumping around onstage, you don't want to worry about a shirt coming untucked or pants falling down. I wore it for my first performance back in front of a live audience after a year and a half, and I felt so much joy that day.



La La Anthony

My most memorable look was the silver sequined Alexandre Vauthier gown that I wore to the final season premiere of *Power* [in 2019]. I loved the classic silhouette and wore my hair in a high ponytail to complement it. The best part was that my son, Kiyon, was my date. He got all dressed up in Dolce & Gabbana to walk the red carpet with me. It was also the first time I ever let him watch an episode of the show!

Storm Reid

For my first Met Gala this year, I paid homage to [singer] Lola Falana. Lola was someone who took risks. She once wore a gorgeous pink feather skirt onstage, so I sent the image to my stylist Jason Bolden and Ms. Prada's team, and the rest is history. Every detail, from the color to the feathers, was what I envisioned. It also showed off my newly chopped blond hair. The entire look was liberating.



Kate Hudson

I don't know if it's my body shape or the way they make their dresses, but many of the hottest looks I've worn have been by Versace. Their designs just feel like a second skin. Some of my favorites have been the sheer black gown that I wore to the 2005 *Skeleton Key* premiere, the shimmering gold dress at the 2012 Venice Film Festival, and this gorgeous white gown with side cutouts at the 2015 Golden Globes. My looks are always indicative of what I'm feeling on the inside, so when I'm feeling fiery? Bring on the sexy Versace.



Keke Palmer

When I was around 15, I wore this purple leather Elise Overland dress to the 2009 Kids' Choice Awards. I loved that it was wholesome yet still flirty. I was ready to show off a more mature side and be like, "Hey, I'm growing up!" Looking back, it is quite the precious statement I was making. But it was a very specific start of my metamorphosis from child to woman.



Jennifer Hudson

One of my most glamorous moments was when I was photographed for *InStyle's* August [2021] cover. [Stylist] Law Roach pulled inspiration from my life outside the spotlight, and the team captured the Jennifer who hasn't really changed since she was a teenager. It was authentic and sexy and made me feel proud of my journey. Nothing is more glamorous than that.

—ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY GLYNIS COSTIN

Ciara

For a recent dinner, I wore a silver mini slip dress from my LITA by Ciara collection, paired with a La Perla silk robe. It was one of my hottest looks—sexy, flattering, and hugging my curves in all the right places. Fashion is one of the ways I express myself, so it feels incredible to wear something I designed and know other women can have that exact same feeling.



Hailee Steinfeld

Right before I performed at the 2017 American Music Awards, I wanted to go out on the carpet in something that made me confident. I felt like I could take on the world in this Mugler suit. The structured shoulders were to die for (and made for a great over-the-shoulder moment), and the slicked-back hair with a sultry eye was the cherry on top. It was a huge night for my music career, and I'll never forget it.

